

## Chapter 1

### Torpedo Defense

If ever one can be terrified it is during an air attack at sea. With planes diving, and falling bombs sending fountains of water and wreckage high in the air, with ships zigzagging furiously and their antiaircraft guns adding to the uproar, with fire and smoke dotting the water, and bombers exploding in the air, the scene becomes indescribable.

It was in a battle such as this that I was called down into the sick bay of the ship to care for an injured man. I had been praying considerably during the battle. While I was caring for this man I was suddenly impressed that I was in terrible danger and should pray. So while I worked I prayed.

In the noise and confusion of battle I was unaware of the occurrence, or the sinister nature of what was threatening our ship, as foes both seen and unseen attacked.

Great was my amazement when, returning topside a little later, I found that my premonition of special danger to our ship had not been the working of a battle-weary mind. With subdued excitement in their voices, officers who had witnessed the occurrences of the past few minutes, were marveling at our miraculous escapes. Not only once had tragic destruction seemed inevitable, but three times in those few minutes we had literally sailed out of the jaws of death, when escape from destruction by the enemy by natural means was absolutely impossible.

“What do you think of that, doctor?” one of the officers said to me. “It couldn’t have happened, but it did, because I saw it. Three times we should have been knocked out, but we are still without damage!”

As soon as I could after the battle, I went to my stateroom and told God what I thought about it. His protection had been over us in that hour. It had spared my shipmates and me because God had remembered His promise, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee.” Psalm 50:15.

This experience and a thousand others have proved to me that there is a God and that He answers the call of men and women who live in a modern world. What religion means to me can best be

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explained as I tell how my belief in God has been confirmed by science, by His word, by His love, and by His Spirit.

We were making the most of a brief opportunity to enjoy the things of interest at our nation's capital, Washington, D. C. December had charged the afternoon atmosphere with an invigorating sharpness that cleansed it of any lethargic influence. Its briskness dissipated the gloom of a wintry overcast sky.

This was the first opportunity that my wife and I had had to see the historical wonders that all Americans have read about. We had visited the White House and the Treasury Building, and were being impressed with the Capitol itself when we came to a large room filled with busts and statues of men who are famous in the history of our country. As we paused before the statues of Washington and Lincoln I found myself saying: "I do wish that they could talk to us and tell us about themselves."

As we were leaving the room someone else remarked: "They certainly look real. The only thing they lack is life." Many have theorized about the source of life without getting far. Some say that man was created by an Omnipotent Being, called God. This Being, they say, has created everything in the universe, and has told in His Book, the Bible, how, when, and why all things were made. These statues lacked life because they were made by men, and no man has ever been able to create life. Many have tried, but all have failed.

There are men, some wise and some not so wise, who insist that there is absolutely nothing scientific about the Bible. "You have to accept it by faith," they say, "there is nothing reasonable or logical about it." Now the only way to prove that an argument is either right or wrong is to lay all the scientific facts concerning physical man alongside the Bible account of creation. If the Bible story cannot meet the scientific requirements, then we will have to continue to search for the truth concerning the origin of man. On the other hand, if it does meet the requirements, and there is no one who can give a more logical and reasonable account of creation, then, if we are honest and sincere, we will accept the Bible account.

"What is man?" asks the psalmist. Psalm 8:4. That question has puzzled many others through the ages. The many materials which compose the physical body have been analyzed, weighed, and measured in the laboratory. It is now commonly known that the human body is made of the various elements found in the earth and air.

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The psalmist exclaimed: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14. He really would have been amazed if he could have had a laboratory and a microscope with which to study the wonders of the human body.

King David doubtless considered the human eye many times. Perhaps he also noted how the black pupil in its center changed its size as the light varied, but he could not know of the many minute cells and tiny nerves and muscles that brought about this action. Neither could he know the purpose of that lining within the eye, the retina, which is many times more sensitive than the most sensitive photographic plate of our day.

Think how surprised David would have been if someone could have told him of the secrets of the spiral, bony inner ear with its twenty-eight thousand sound-receiving filaments. (A piano has only one hundred strings.) The inner ear has small chambers filled with fluid and lined with microscopic hairs. Floating in this fluid are tiny stones which help to maintain the equilibrium of the body by touching these hairs to let us know when we lean to one side or the other.

With all his intelligence this king did not know that he had about twelve billion brain cells in his own head to give him the ability to think and act. Although he had wiped the perspiration from his brow many times, he did it without knowing that there were two and a half million sweat glands in the skin of his body to help keep his temperature at a normal of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists had not yet discovered the results of metabolism and the relationship between heat production and heat regulation in the body. They did not know that the simple act of rowing a boat for three miles would produce enough heat in the body of the individual to cook him alive if no heat escaped.

This old king was a great warrior. Many times he saw the red blood flow from the wounds of his enemies, and those of his own soldiers, too. He would have been surprised to learn that blood as red as what he saw is nine tenths water, and that more than half of it is a watery colorless fluid called "plasma." He would also have been surprised to learn that the heart is a pump which works night and day. Seventy-two times each minute it forces a total of about fifteen pints of blood through the blood vessels to and from all parts of the body. Without a microscope he could not see the cells of the blood - cells so small that several of them could rest on the tip of a needle!

Each cubic centimeter of blood contains about five million disk-shaped red cells, each carrying in an envelope the iron-containing

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hemoglobin, oxygen, and other vital substances necessary to maintain life. Smaller than the red cells are the tiny blood platelets which cause the blood to clot when there is an injury. Along with the red cells and the platelets in the cubic centimeter of blood there are about nine thousand irregularly shaped white cells. They are slightly larger than the red cells, but still so small that they can pass right through the wall of the blood vessels when they are called for duty outside the blood stream. They form a sort of standing army which springs to action whenever the body is threatened with disease or injury.

King David did not know about all of these wonders. But he was willing to accept God as his Creator, saying: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:14.

There is no question about the composition of the human body, and many of the natural laws by which its organs function are understood. Many so-called scientists have attempted to use this knowledge to evolve some theory that will explain the origin of life. Using a few facts and a large amount of imagination they have "discovered" a number of theories, none of which agree and few of which have lasted long. We can readily accept the facts of structure and function, but the theories of origin only arouse our skepticism.

"And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." Genesis 1:26. Here God is considering the work that He is about to do and states that He is going to use Himself as the model. He is planning to work with Someone, that is, His only-begotten Son, "by whom also He made the worlds." He "created all things by Jesus Christ." Hebrews 1:2; Ephesians 3:9. Thus it was God and His Son, Jesus Christ, who planned human beings that would resemble Themselves in appearance.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground." Genesis 2:7. Several thousand years before science discovered that man's body consisted of the elements found in the earth, God said that He made the human body out of those elements. That would certainly indicate that the One who wrote the book of Genesis had some scientific information, and we will have to score Point 1 in favor of God as the Creator.